

Mississippi Public Service Commission

MICHAEL CALLAHAN, CHAIRMAN
HATTIESBURG - SECOND DISTRICT

BO ROBINSON, VICE-CHAIRMAN
HAMILTON - THIRD DISTRICT

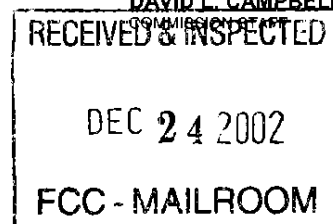
NIELSEN COCHRAN, COMMISSIONER
JACKSON - FIRST DISTRICT

WILLIE E. MAY, COLONEL
OFFICE OF MOTOR CARRIERS

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL **OSCAR L. MORGAN**, MAJOR
OFFICE OF MOTOR CARRIERS

BRIAN U. RAY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
(601) 961-5400

DAVID L. CAMPBELL, ATTORNEY
COMMISSION STAFF



December 19, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445-12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45; January 1st Certification Deadline for Rural Carriers

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313, The Mississippi Public Service Commission ("MPSC") files its required certification for the year 2003 for **RCC Holdings, Inc D/B/A Unicef ("RCC") - Carriers Study Area Code # - 289002**.

In accordance with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) requirements in *Federal/State Joint Board on Universal Service, Ninth Report and Order, Eighteenth Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 99-306*, the MPSC certifies that RCC's proposed use of federal universal service high-cost support for the year 2003 will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Attached is a copy of the Commission's orders in its Docket No. 02-UA-533.

Enclosed is a stamped addressed envelope and an additional copy of this letter for you to use in forwarding a stamped filed copy of this correspondence. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

In accordance with the FCC's mandate, this certification letter is also being sent to Irene Flannery, Universal Service Administrative Company.

Sincerely,

Michael Callahan, Chairman

Bo Robinson, Vice-Chairman

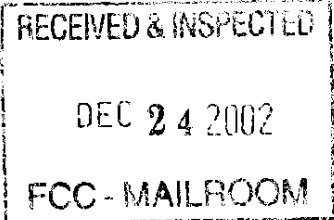
Nielsen Cochran, Commissioner

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Enclosure

Cc: Irene Flannery
Bobby Whites
Brian Ray

**BEFORE THE
MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**



O2-UA-533

**RCC HOLDINGS, INC. D/B/A
UNICEL**

TC 123200300

**IN RE: APPLICATION OF RCC HOLDINGS,
INC. D/B/A UNICEL FOR
DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER
UNDER 47 U.S.C. 214(e)(2)**

ORDER

COMES NOW the Mississippi Public Service Commission ("Commission") and it appearing to the Commission, for good cause shown and after reviewing the plan of RCC Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Unicel ("RCC") for utilization of the year 2003 Federal Universal Service Funding ("USF") heretofore submitted to this Commission by RCC, and this Commission being otherwise sufficiently advised finds as follows:

I.

On August 20, 2002, RCC filed its Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") under Section 47 U. S. C. 214(e)(2). The Commission entered an Order designating RCC an ETC on December 2, 2002.

II.

On December 6, 2002, RCC submitted its detailed plan for utilization of the Federal Universal Service Fund for the year 2003 for approval by the Commission. The plan submitted on December 6, 2002 was filed under seal, but generally proposed to maintain and support the existing infrastructure and also expand network services for projected 2003 growth. This

Commission finds that RCC's proposed use of federal universal service funds for the year 2003 in Mississippi is consistent with the principles of Universal Service as outlined in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and by the FCC in its Universal Service Order.¹

III.

The Commission, after consultation with the Public Utilities Staff, concludes that RCC's December 6, 2002 plan for utilization of the Federal Universal Service Fund for the year 2003 is consistent with the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the pertinent FCC orders.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED:

1. The Commission hereby certifies that RCC's plan to utilize Federal Universal Service High Cost Support Funds in Mississippi as contained in its plan submitted to the Commission on December 6, 2002, is consistent with 47 U.S.C. 254(e).

2. RCC file quarterly reports with the Commission providing the status of universal service fund expenditures and projects beginning Second Quarter of 2003.

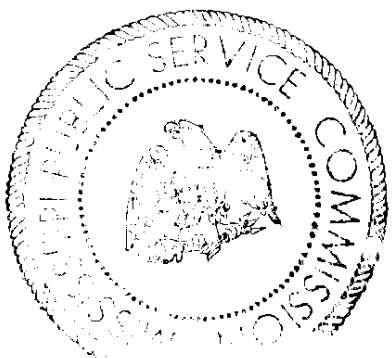
3. This Order is effective as of the date hereof.

Chairman Michael Callahan voted Aye, Vice Chairman Bo Robinson voted Aye; and Commissioner Nielsen Cochran voted Aye.

¹Federal - State Joint Board on Universal Service Ninth Report and Order and Eighteenth Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 99-306, Released November 2, 1999 ("Universal Service Order"). See generally, paragraphs 93-110.

SO ORDERED, this the 20th day of December, 2002.

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



BY: Michael Callahan
MICHAEL CALLAHAN, CHAIRMAN

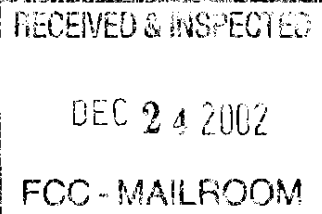
BY: Bo Robinson
BO ROBINSON, VICE CHAIRMAN

BY: Nielsen Cochran
NIELSEN COCHRAN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Brian U. Ray
BRIAN U. RAY,
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



O2-UA-533

**IN RE: APPLICATION OF RCC
HOLDINGS, INC. D/B/A UNICEL
FOR DESIGNATION AS AN
ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
CARRIER UNDER 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2)**

**RCC HOLDINGS, INC. D/B/A
UNICEL**

TC 123200300

ORDER

THIS DAY, there came on for consideration by the Mississippi Public Service Commission ("Commission"), the Application of RCC Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Unicel ("RCC") for designation as a carrier eligible for federal universal service support pursuant to Section 214(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("TA96"). The Commission, being fully apprised in the premises and having considered the documents, responses of RCC to data requests submitted by the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff ("MPUS"), and the record before it, as authorized by law and upon the recommendation of the MPUS, finds as follows, to-wit:

1. On August 20, 2002, RCC filed with the Commission its Application pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) and Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") Rule 47 C.F.R. § 54.201, requesting designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") for a service area as set forth in Attachments 1 and 2 of the Application (the "designated service area").

2. The Commission has jurisdiction to enter this Order, and entry hereof is in the public interest.

3. Due and proper notice of the Application was given to all interested persons as required by law and the Commission's Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure.

4. BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (“BellSouth”) intervened and became a party of record in this matter. BellSouth has no objection to the Commission deciding this case without conducting a hearing.

5. RCC holds FCC licenses to provide commercial mobile radio services (“CMRS”) in Mississippi 1, Mississippi 3, and Mississippi 4 Rural Service Areas, and provides such services under the name “Unicel.” These services are provided in predominately rural areas in Mississippi.

6. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e) and Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) Rule 47 C.F.R. § 54.201, to qualify under federal law as a telecommunications carrier eligible for universal service funding, carriers must satisfy certain requirements or qualify for a waiver of those requirements. An ETC must offer the following services:

- a. Voice grade access to the public switched network;
- b. Access to free of charge “local usage” defined as an amount of minutes of use of exchange service;
- c. Dual tone multi-frequency signaling or its functional equivalent;
- d. Single-party service or its functional equivalent;
- e. Access to emergency services;
- f. Access to operator services;
- g. Access to interexchange services;
- h. Access to directory assistance; and
- i. Toll limitations services for qualifying low-income customers.

7. Qualified ETCs must offer these services either using their own facilities or a

combination of their own facilities and the resale of services of another facilities-based carrier. Further, ETCs must advertise the availability of, and the prevailing prices for, the universal services throughout the area in which they have been designated as an ETC. The Commission finds that RCC satisfies these requirements and shall continue to comply with each of these provisions regarding service provision and offerings.

8. RCC has implemented a program to advertise the availability of the above-referenced services and related charges using media of general distribution in its licensed service area as required by Section 254(e)(1)(B) of TA96 and Section 54.201(d)(2) of the FCC's Rules.

9. The Commission finds that RCC is a wireless carrier which now offers all of these services throughout its service area including toll blocking services. Once designated an ETC, RCC will participate in Lifeline and will provide toll blocking to its Lifeline customers.

10. The Commission finds that designation of RCC as an ETC is consistent with the public interest. A primary goal of TA96 is to promote competition. The offering of a mobile communications service will constitute an additional choice for those consumers located in the designated service area described herein. The Commission finds that the designation of RCC as an ETC will result in more competition, will provide a service alternative to consumers residing in the designated service area described herein, and will help promote the introduction of innovative service offerings.

11. The Commission finds that RCC has committed to serve all subscribers upon request in its designated service area. RCC provides service either through its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale.

12. RCC has not requested ETC designation for the exchanges of small rural carriers (independent telephone companies).

13. The Commission finds that an ETC designation to RCC can, at a future time, be modified, or changed by subsequent Order of this Commission.

14. The Commission finds that ETC designation cannot be granted solely based on resale. Therefore, the Commission finds that RCC shall provide service either through its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale to all subscribers upon request in its designated service area.

15. RCC shall also offer Lifeline and Linkup services. Attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is the Tariff of RCC relating to its offering of Lifeline and Linkup services.

16. The Commission finds that RCC is entitled to be granted a designation as an ETC throughout its designated service area in Mississippi based on timely complying with all conditions expressed in this Order.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED:

1. RCC is designated an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier throughout its requested service area in Mississippi as set forth in the Application. RCC shall provide service either through its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale to all subscribers upon request in its designated service area.

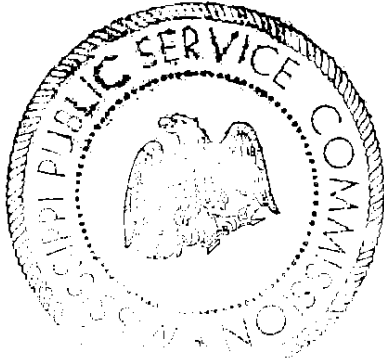
2. This Commission retains continuing jurisdiction to review, modify, or revoke its designation of RCC as an ETC.

3. The entire file of the Commission, as well as all responses to all data requests of the MPUS, are specifically made a part of the record in this matter.

4. This Order is effective as of the date hereof.

Chairman Michael Callahan voted Ag; Vice-Chairman Bo Robinson voted Ag;
Commissioner Nielsen Cochran voted Ag.

SO ORDERED on this the 2nd day of December, 2002.



MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Michael Callahan
Michael Callahan, Chairman

Bo Robinson
Bo Robinson, Vice-Chairman

Nielsen Cochran
Nielsen Cochran, Commissioner

ATTEST: A True Copy

Brian C. Ray
Brian C. Ray
Executive Secretary

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TARIFF

OF

**RCC HOLDINGS, INC.
D/B/A/ UNICEL**

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF

RCC HOLDINGS, INC.

FOR THE PROVISION OF

LIFELINE AND LINK-UP FIXED WIRELESS SERVICE PLANS

IN

MISSISSIPPI RURAL SERVICE AREAS

ONE, THREE AND FOUR

Issued Date:

Effective Date:

LIFELINE AND LINK-UP FIXED WIRELESS SERVICE PLANS

- Section 1. Applicability
The tariff contains the regulations, rates and charges applicable to the Company's Lifeline and Link-Up Fixed Wireless Service Plans in Mississippi.
- Section 2. Territory
The Company's authorized service area is the Federal Communications Commission's Mississippi Rural Service Areas One, Two and Three.
- Section 3. Description of Lifeline Program
- A. Federal Lifeline Program. The Lifeline program is designed to increase the availability of telecommunications services to low income customers by providing a credit to monthly recurring service for qualifying customers. Basic terms and conditions are in compliance with the FCC's Order No. 97-157 on Universal Service, which adopts the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendation in CC Docket 96-45, which complies with the Telecommunications Act of 1996.
- B. Supported Amount. Lifeline is supported by the federal universal service support mechanism. Federal baseline support of \$6.75 is available for each Lifeline service and is passed through to the subscriber. The Company provides an additional \$2.00 credit. Supplemental federal support of \$1.00, matching one-half of the Company contribution will also be passed along to the Lifeline subscriber. The total Lifeline credit available to an eligible customer in Mississippi is \$9.75. The amount of credit will not exceed the charge for service.
- Section 4. Description of Link-Up Program
- Federal Link-up Program. The Link-up program is a connection assistance plan that provides reduced charges for qualifying customers for access to the network. The reduction in charges provided by this program is applicable to charges for the installation of the service. The reduction is equal to 50%, or one-half of such amount, not to exceed \$30.00.

Section 5. Eligibility for Lifeline and Link-Up Service

- A. Fixed Application. Fixed wireless unit is required to be eligible for the Lifeline and Link-up Fixed Wireless Service Plans.
- B. Federal Eligibility Requirements. A low-income credit is available for each household and is applicable to the primary wireless phone only. The customer must be a current recipient of any of the following low-income assistance programs: Medicaid; Food Stamps; Supplemental Security Income; Federal Public Housing Assistance; and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- C. Self Certification. Each customer to Lifeline or Link-up assistance must certify in writing to the Company, under penalty of perjury, that he/she receives benefits under a program outlined, above, and must, on the same document, agree to notify the Company if he/she ceases to participate in the program(s). The certification form shall conform to the requirements described herein and shall be made available upon request to any customer. The Company shall retain all such customer certifications in order to furnish proof of customer eligibility as may be required from time to time by Universal Service administrators. A subscriber to Lifeline Assistance may not be a dependant for Federal Income tax purposes unless he/she is more than 60 years old.
- D. Toll Blocking. A customer may elect at the time of application to Lifeline Assistance to receive toll blocking as part of Lifeline Assistance. "Toll Blocking" is a service that allows a customer to elect not to allow the completion of outgoing toll calls from the customer's wireless phone. Toll Blocking, if elected, will be provided at no charge to the Lifeline customer.

Section 6. Other Terms and Conditions of Lifeline Service.

- A. Disconnect Policy. Lifeline Assistance will not be disconnected for non-payment of toll charges, however, in the event toll charges are not paid within 30 days of the mailing of the Company bill, the Company will implement Toll Blocking immediately thereafter. In addition, the Company will not deny re-establishment of service to customers who are eligible for Lifeline Assistance and have previously been disconnected for non-payment of toll

charges. Lifeline Assistance will not be connected if the customer owes and outstanding balance for non-toll service.

- B. Deposits. The Company may not collect a service deposit in order to initiate Lifeline Assistance if the qualifying low-income subscriber voluntarily elects toll blocking from the Company, where available. If toll blocking is unavailable or not elected, then the Company may charge a service deposit.
- C. Federal Universal Service Surcharges. The Federal Universal Charge will not be billed to Lifeline customers.

Section 7. Rates of Services for the Lifeline Rate Plan

- A. Monthly Access Rate: \$19.99
- B. Local Usage: Plan includes unlimited local usage.
- C. Local Service Area: The Local Service Area will be defined to include a grouping of cellular facilities that provides calling within the communities of interest. With Local Service Area will include local calling areas larger than existing landline local services areas. [WILL UPDATE AFTER DESIGNATION AS AN ETC]
- D. Toll Charges: Long Distance will be charged at a rate of \$0.15 a minute outside of the Local Service Area but within the 48 contiguous United States. International Long Distance calling terminating outside of the aforementioned areas will be blocked unless subscriber requests it be allowed, and, if so allowed, will be charged rates passed directly through from Sprint.
- E. Exclusive of Taxes and Surcharges: The rate set forth in this tariff does not include any amounts resulting from taxes, fees, or exactions imposed by or for the state, any municipal corporation or other political subdivision or agency of government against the customers, company, its property or its operations. It shall be the obligation of the customers to pay such amounts resulting from such taxes, fees, or exactions and such amounts shall be billed by the Company to its customers.